

## **ACADEMY OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES**

**Testimony Before the General Law Committee  
Feb 22, 2022**

**In support of**

### **HB 5147 AN ACT CONCERNING PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA.**

Dear Senator Maroney, Representative D'Agostino, Senator Fonfara, Representative Gibson, Senator Witkos, Representative Rutigliano and Members of the General Law Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 5147. The Academy of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries (AMMD) is a special interest academy within the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. Together, Connecticut's dispensaries serve the health and wellness of over 55,000 patients.

AMMD welcomes the expansion of medical cannabis certifiers to include physician assistants and we support this bill. We would suggest, though, that this bill also offers the opportunity to improve the current medical marijuana program by eliminating the application and annual administration fees currently levied on medical marijuana patients. Although medical marijuana is technically tax-free, these fees effectively, and unfairly, tax medical marijuana patients for access to their medication. No other medical treatment or therapy requires such fees, and their repeal is long overdue.

With the launch of the adult-use cannabis program, DCP has begun collecting application fees for the many license categories available. These fees alone will offset any budget impact that eliminating the medical user fees might have.

Accordingly, we suggest the following language (or similar) be amended to HB 5147:

Effective July 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection shall cease charging the nonrefundable fee for administrative costs for each qualifying patient and the nonrefundable application fee for each qualifying patient and caregiver under chapter 420f of the general statutes. The commissioner shall also cease charging the renewal fee for each qualifying patient under chapter 420f of the general statutes. The commissioner shall amend existing regulations to eliminate such fees in accordance with the provisions of this section.

We would be happy to discuss this amendment in detail.